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RetroChat

An AI chat client built to feel at home on older Apple hardware and classic Safari.

About

RetroChat is an AI chat client designed to run on iPhone 5s. It pairs a retro interface with ES5, Flexbox, and XHR streaming so conversations stay usable in older Safari environments while still supporting OpenAI-compatible models, local browser storage, and custom theming.

What is RetroChat

RetroChat is an AI chat client that runs in the browser and is built with older mobile devices in mind. The app is explicitly presented as compatible with iPhone 5s, and it highlights ES5, Flexbox, and XHR streaming as the technical basis for smooth use on iOS

It is not a standalone desktop program or a native mobile app. Instead, it is a lightweight web interface for chatting with a model through an OpenAI-compatible endpoint. The default setup includes a pre-configured model, so you can begin without filling in advanced settings first.

Key features

RetroChat focuses on a compact set of capabilities that suit a retro-style AI assistant UI:

- Works in the browser, with a design aimed at older Safari versions.
- Uses XHR streaming so responses can appear progressively rather than all at once.
- Supports custom OpenAI-compatible models through a base URL and API key.
- Lets you change the theme, with options including Old Mac gray, Paper / sepia, Amber terminal, and CRT green.
- Includes language controls, with Auto (system), [illegible], and English shown in the interface.
- Stores conversations in browser localStorage, so chats remain local to the device.
- Offers export and import for JSON conversation data.
- Can auto-generate a short title after the first reply.
- Exposes a system prompt field for adjusting the assistant's role or style.

The app also shows a GitHub link and an AGPL-3.0 license notice, which makes the source and license visible from the site itself.

How to use it

Getting started with RetroChat is straightforward because the homepage is already set up for chatting.

- Open the site and look for the message input area.
- Type a prompt and send it to start a conversation.
- If you want a different model, open the settings panel using the gear icon in the top bar.
- Enter your OpenAI-compatible base URL, API key, and model name if you are not

- Adjust temperature if you want more or less randomness in responses; the interface shows 0.7 as the visible value.
- Optionally add a system prompt to define the assistant's tone, role, or style.
- Choose a visual theme and language from the available settings.
- Turn on auto title if you want the app to summarize the conversation topic after the first reply.
- Use Export JSON or Import JSON when you want to move chats between devices or preserve them manually.

Because chats are kept in localStorage, the browser on that device is the primary place where your conversation history lives unless you export it.

Who it is for

RetroChat is best suited to users who want a browser chat UI that feels light, old-school, and device-friendly.

- People using older iPhones or Safari versions that still need a working AI front end.
- Users who already have access to an OpenAI-compatible API endpoint and want a simple client.
- Developers and tinkerers who prefer direct control over base URL, model selection, and system prompts.
- Anyone who likes a retro terminal, CRT, or classic Mac aesthetic instead of a modern heavy interface.
- Privacy-conscious users who want chats stored locally in the browser rather than in an account-centered cloud workspace.

It may also appeal to people experimenting with alternative endpoints, since the settings are designed around custom OpenAI-compatible services rather than a single locked-in provider.

What to know before you use it

RetroChat is lightweight, but there are important limits to understand before relying on it.

localStorage is local to the browser profile, which means your conversation history does not automatically sync across devices.

The site advertises OpenAI-compatible endpoints, so it is not described as a direct connector to every AI provider without configuration.

The default model is pre-configured, but the exact model name is not stated on the site, so that detail should be treated as unknown unless you check the live settings.

Compatibility is emphasized for iPhone 5s and iOS 12 Safari, but that does not guarantee identical behavior on every other browser or device.

The app can export and import JSON, but it is not presented as a full backup service or team collaboration platform.

If you need account-level sync, enterprise controls, or provider-specific features, the official model dashboard or API documentation will be more authoritative than this client.

RetroChat is a niche browser AI chat client with a strong retro identity, local-first storage, and enough configuration to fit custom model setups without losing its old-device focus.

FAQ

Is RetroChat free to use?

What devices does RetroChat work on?

Can I connect my own model endpoint?

Where are my chats saved?

Does RetroChat support exporting conversations?

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Category	AI
Platform	Web, iOS, API
Launched	Aug 2026
Updated	today
Verified	yesterday

TAGS

ai chat # browser client # localstorage # ios safari # open source # retro ui # openai compatible

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